



# NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

September's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate of 3.3 percent for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) decreased two-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month, but increased one-tenth of a percentage point from the same time last year as seen in Northeast Table 1. Individually, the counties showed little change over the month; all showed slight decreases in the unemployment rate with Butte County remaining unchanged. Year-over-year, Bingham and Butte Counties showed larger increases at six-tenths of a percentage point and eight-tenths of a percentage point, respectively. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, decreased one-tenth of a percentage point from the previous month and decreased two-tenths of a percentage point from the same time last year to end with an unemployment rate of 3.2 percent.

*Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in the LMA increased by only 80 jobs over the month. Although *Goods-Producing Industries* decreased 480 jobs, due to *Construction* and *Manufacturing* decreases, *Service-Providing Industries* showed an increase of 560 jobs. Increases in both *Government Education* (610 jobs) and *Government Administration* (290 jobs) counteracted decreases in *Information*, *Trade*, *Professional & Business Services*, and *Other Services*. The increases in government jobs are a result of the start of a new school year and needed cleanup of city properties at the end of tourist season. Year-over-year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 770, with larger increases seen in *Construction* (1,080 jobs) and *Educational & Health Services* (370 jobs). Larger decreases were noted in *Food Manufacturing* (-390 jobs) as processing plants laid off for maintenance, and *Retail Trade* (-360 jobs) during a time of garden and crop

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, and Jefferson Counties

	Sept 2003*	Aug 2003	Sept 2002	% Change From Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b><i>Seasonally Adjusted</i></b>					
Civilian Labor Force	81,060	80,640	81,960	0.5	-1.1
Unemployment	2,690	2,840	2,640	-5.3	1.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	3.5	3.2		
Total Employment	78,370	77,810	79,320	0.7	-1.2
<b><i>Unadjusted</i></b>					
Civilian Labor Force	82,430	83,130	83,550	-0.8	-1.3
Unemployment	2,740	3,550	2,820	-22.8	-2.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	4.3	3.4		
Total Employment	79,690	79,580	80,730	0.1	-1.3
<b>JOB BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	65,040	64,960	64,270	0.1	1.2
<b><i>Goods-Producing Industries</i></b>	11,180	11,660	10,320	-4.1	8.3
Natural Resources & Mining	70	70	80	0.0	-12.5
Construction	6,160	6,300	5,080	-2.2	21.3
Manufacturing	4,950	5,290	5,160	-6.4	-4.1
Food Manufacturing	2,370	2,330	2,760	1.7	-14.1
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	320	320	270	0.0	18.5
Machinery Manufacturing	490	480	460	2.1	6.5
Other Manufacturing	1,770	2,160	1,670	-18.1	6.0
<b><i>Service-Providing Industries</i></b>	53,860	53,300	53,950	1.1	-0.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	14,230	14,230	14,500	0.0	-1.9
Wholesale Trade	4,720	4,730	4,770	-0.2	-1.0
Retail Trade	7,520	7,550	7,880	-0.4	-4.6
Utilities	110	110	100	0.0	10.0
Transportation	1,880	1,840	1,750	2.2	7.4
Information	790	810	900	-2.5	-12.2
Financial Activities	2,050	2,060	2,090	-0.5	-1.9
Professional & Business Services	11,780	11,890	11,770	-0.9	0.1
Educational & Health Services	6,500	6,480	6,130	0.3	6.0
Leisure & Hospitality	5,320	5,410	5,210	-1.7	2.1
Other Services	2,090	2,220	2,280	-5.9	-8.3
Government Education	4,580	3,970	4,640	15.4	-1.3
Government Administration	6,520	6,230	6,430	4.7	1.4

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

harvesting when there is an abundance of food sold or produced out of the retail market.

## SPECIAL TOPIC:

### Overview of LMA Labor Force Figures

Data for the Bonneville LMA since 1998 indicates the labor force has grown by almost 3,000 as shown in Northeast Table 2 on page 20. Since 2003 only includes data through October, a 10-month average (January through October) is used for each of the six years to make the data comparable to the most recent 2003 data. Although the first 10 months of 2003 shows a 337-person decrease from 2002, it shows a lower unemployment rate than any of the previous years. Therefore, the number of

Year	Avg Labor Force	Avg Unemp Rate
1998	79,979	4.1
1999	80,019	4.2
2000	79,801	3.8
2001	80,128	3.8
2002	83,168	3.9
2003	82,831	3.7

unemployed persons in 2003 was less than it was in 2002. Several contributing factors can be noted. The LMA's overall population has increased by almost 6,500 from 1998 to 2002. Out of this growth, Bonneville County contributed close to 68 percent—almost 4,400 people. *Health Services, Construction, and Social Services* have shown steady increases in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* data for the past several years. A focus on economic development has been increasing in these counties over the past five to six years. Bonneville County remains a regional hub, attracting many surrounding counties in *Retail* and *Services* industries. Commercial growth remains heavy into the Ammon area and in the urban revitalization area between Broadway and Pancheri Drive. The LMA has lost some companies, gained others, and has experienced some large layoffs over the six years, and growth has slowed in many areas. Yet the LMA still shows growth and progression, and the outlook for economy remains optimistic and vibrant.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Bonneville County

- North Wind, Inc. is building a new corporate headquarters north of U.S. Highway 20 and south of Freeman Park in Idaho Falls. The 29,000-square-foot building will house over 100 employees and will allow the company to grow. The company specializes in environmental and earth science consulting and management, and recently started its own construction company due to demand, building on the company employees' expertise. The company started in 1997 and has over 200 employees with 14 offices throughout the U.S. The planned completion date of the building is early summer 2004.
- A new Child Behavior Center recently opened in Ammon at 1619 Curlew Drive. The full-service center for children with developmental, emotional, and behavioral disorders houses 13 spe-

cialists covering a large range of treatments. For more information, call 529-4300.

- Furniture Row, a 34,000-square-foot addition to the Denver Mattress Company now appears as a strip mall on the west side of Hitt Road. Furniture Row is a sister company of Denver Mattress. The addition expanded the one-time bed store into a full-line furniture store. Technically, there are now four stores: Denver Mattress specializes in mattresses; Sofa Mart specializes in sofas, chairs, and loveseats; Bedroom Expressions specializes in bedroom furniture; and Oak Express specializes in dressers, tables, and other woodwork. Each store has a separate outside entrance, but they are also interconnected with walkthroughs.

### Jefferson County

- Steel Vision, a company that erects large pre-engineered metal buildings such as airplane hangars and potato cellars, is building on the west side of U.S. Highway 20 in north Rigby. The 6,000-square-foot building will house the company of 80 employees. The company has been renting a building since it opened in 2001. Expected completion is December.

### Madison County

- With Brigham Young University-Idaho still growing as it adds more educational options and living/studying spaces for students, the town of Rexburg continues to add businesses to keep up with demand. Utility lines and roads are being completed for a 29-lot business park situated on 18 acres near U.S. Highway 20 near West Main. Professional offices, retail shops and restaurants are expected to locate there over time. Already an insurance office has committed to locating there.
- Teton Village is almost complete at Second East in Rexburg. The \$6.9 million commercial complex includes 12 retail spaces and a six-theater cinema complex. Completion is slated for December.
- Desert Industries Thrift Store is building a \$1.9 million store on Second East in Rexburg next to Teton Lanes bowling alley. The new store will replace the existing store in town.

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